

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FREEWAY COMMEMORATIVE ARTWORK PROJECT

May 2004

■ OVERALL GOALS

- To honor the spirit and memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- To include community representation in the design of the murals and encourage community pride.
- To provide artists a positive venue for their art

■ THE PROJECT/HISTORY

State Route 94 was designated the "Martin Luther King Jr." Freeway as a tribute to Dr. King. To honor the accomplishments, spirit and memory of Dr. King, former City Council member George Stevens, representing the communities of Mount Hope, Oak Park, and Encanto, and former Caltrans District 11-San Diego Director Gary Gallegos proposed a commemorative artwork project be developed and placed on State Route 94.

Today, this project is still important to the community, and current Councilmember Charles Lewis and Caltrans District Director Pedro Orso-Delgado have picked up where their predecessors left off, working together to honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Caltrans has successfully partnered with the city of San Diego on highway arts projects in the past, including the Chicano Park Mural and mural renovation projects, and the "City Gates" art proposal. Caltrans has relied on the city to provide technical and administrative support on past highway art projects, and the current project was jointly sponsored by city and Caltrans Executive Staff in response to community interest.

■ PROJECT STATUS/FUNDING

In 1999, Caltrans District 11, in partnership with the city of San Diego and Southeast Development Corporation, applied for \$300,000 in Federal Transportation Enhancement Act (TEA) funds, competing with many other applications statewide. The application was successful and the funds were awarded to Caltrans.

In early 2002, Caltrans and the City Arts and Culture Commission began the process of transferring the TEA funds to the city. The city will administer the completion of the project by providing community outreach, including the artist and artwork selection process and installation of the artwork. Caltrans will continue to perform an advisory role in the project.

■ OUR PARTNERS

Caltrans is working closely with the city of San Diego, local business community and local artists.

■ FOR MORE INFORMATION

You may contact the Caltrans Public Information Office at (619) 688-6670 to get additional information, or more copies of this fact sheet. You may also visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov/dist11.

